

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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A Word from the President

By Rosa Scott, Department President

Oh my, the things they did not tell me about being a Department President!

You remember (ladies) hearing or reading about the "Freshman 15" in college . . . well let me assure you it is true! However, I given it a new name it's the "DPI 15 ". I owe this honor to all the wonderful Post and Unit installation programs I had the privilege to attend. Who could actually 'say no" to the great food that was served.

To start my year, I want to say "thanks" to Betty Hanna and Ruth Zingarelli for the invitation to attend the "open house" at the new VA Clinic in Decatur. What a beautiful facility. The next stop was the VA Service Organization meeting in Peachtree City, another interesting venture. In Augusta (Uptown), I met with individual(s) who are making "The Poppy for our Department of Georgia. To wind down the month we participated in The Old Solider Day Parade in Alpharetta, GA. This was just a great "family event". The ALA Department Officers who were able to attend could be seen enjoying themselves with the kids. Who knew they could still do the "Hokey Pokey". Thanks Alpharetta 201 Legion Family, event well done!

Now I am in the process of heading to the National Convention in Baltimore MD with a great group of delegates and alternates from our state. I can't wait to see what the new term will bring.

I want to encourage District and Unit Presidents

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to get ahead of the year. I hope you are being pro-active, preparing your budget, talking with your officers and chairmen and looking at the Plans of Action for the coming year. Remember the online resources are there to help you.

Department Officers and Chairmen I want you to be aware of conference calls that will be coming very soon.

As you see the "DPI 15" will not linger around long, as we begin to shake things up and off, for when we remember and Do not "Forget our mission . . . our purpose . . . our visions for our veteran . . . we will be moving and **anything is possible**

For God and Country



Forget-me-Nots..Our Mission.. ..Our Purpose ..Our Vision for Our Veterans.

Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

We have been very busy in the office handling many phone calls, emails and general mail. The changing of Officers is always a busy time. I appreciate the new Unit Officers who have called wanting to start the year off right and getting their membership up and going for 2015-2016. I hope we do much better this year. The membership for 2015 is currently @ 84.24%, we still are hoping for more so keep working on getting the membership. We are down from 2014's @ 90.71%.

National has set the Unit Goals this year and they are included in this newsletter. We have a lot of work ahead of us to get our Membership growing. So with the revitalizing going on with our American Legion Family we are starting off in the right direction. We must stay focused and open our mind up new ideas and ways to bring in new members. Please read the article From: Cindy Kokernak.

Ladies as you all know this is your Auxiliary, so if you have any questions or ideas you would like to share please let me know. We are always striving to make things easier. The door is always open and we want to hear your input or suggestions.

NATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS:

The National Convention is fast approaching. As we get ready to go to the National Convention in Baltimore August 28th - Sept 3rd. Hope you have made all your arrangements to attend. Since we have a National Commander candidate, we want to show our support. GO TEAM GEORGIA!!!!

You can find additional information on the National website www.alaforveterans.org as well as on our website www.galegionaux.org

I will be out of the office from August 28th - September 8th. Everyone enjoys their Labor Day.

Included in this newsletter are the current goals for the units. ☺

Ladies, Thank You for all you do for our Veterans. You help brighten the lives of so many.

Bless our members and our Veterans.

1st Vice President / Leadership

By Miriam Stein, Department 1st Vice President

The Forget-me-Nots are busy getting ready for the leadership workshops and forget-me-nots bust. Emails and phone calls are making the poppies and Forget-me-Nots bust open for learning. The workshops are going to be about how to organize our Unit and how to do reports and gather your information. We will be giving information on Constitution & By-Laws for new changes if the National ALA makes any changes at convention. We will be holding some orientation on Girls State. I have been attending installations and installing Units.

The workshops will be at Tybee Island Unit 154 31328, Wanda Kendrick 1-912-657-0589 on September 12th

Conyers Unit 77 on September 26th

There will be one in Macon in October don't have date confirm and the north GA area in November.

If you have any problems about leadership you can email me at miriam363rs@gmail.com or call me at 706-399-7539

For God and Country

From Anita Biggs
National Membership Chairman

Quotes appropriate for working on Membership:

**Success demands singleness of purpose. -
Vince Lombardi**

**A little more persistence, a little more effort,
and what seemed hopeless failure may turn
to glorious success. - Elbert Hubbard**

**Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The
most certain way to succeed is always to try
just one more time. - Thomas A. Edison**

2nd Vice President/Membership

By Anita Owens, Department 2nd Vice President

BURSTING OPEN.....By the time you have this newsletter you should have received your quotas for the 2015-2016 year.

Let's hit the ground running and concentrate on getting in the renewals of our members and thinking of ways to recruit new members.

Do not get excited or overwhelm when the numbers are presented. We have seen a trend of decrease in our membership in the past years and we need to make this the year for us to reverse that trend. We are all striving for the same goal however we may go about achieving this goal by different methods. If you think you have a good idea on obtaining new members, please call or email me and we can share it in our newsletter or in conference calls. We are in this together and the ultimate goal is to have members to serve our veterans, children and youth and our community. The more members we have the more people we reach.

Membership Chairman you must be innovative and open to change using your marketing skills to gain the interests of your members and others. Those members that have not renewed this past year, call or write them and tell them what is going on in your unit and how much you have missed them. Let's get them back.

So members let's get our **Forget-Me-Nots to Burst Open** with memberships flowing into our Department.

For God and Country

Historian

By Jane Lawrence, Department Historian

Unit Historians I hope each of you have already started your history book. Remember this years' history started with the installation of your Unit Officer.

It is so important to keep up with the history of your Unit so members who will become Auxiliary members years from now will know how the Unit was formed and what accomplishments have been made through the years, not only for our veterans, but for the community.

The History book is a daily log of events and happenings that is going on in your Unit. So please, members keep your daily logs and pass the information along to your Historian it is very important for her to accomplish her job.

The Plan of Action for History should be available at our workshops.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with and questions and concerns on recording your Units history.

Chaplain

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary Family, as we prepare for 2015-2016 Plan of Actions. Our Department President Rosa Scott's theme; "Forget-Me-Not" Our Purpose ... Our Mission ... Our Vision for our Veterans".

As my prayer goes forth, God bless our Nation, and Leadership. Keep them safe as they travel to do the will that you have purposed for this organization. Let their work be fruitful, and pleasing in your sight. Seeking you first, in all that they do... As we work together to pass on the wisdom, knowledge and purpose of the Auxiliary programs.

We can do all things according to the purpose that God has in our lives. Direct our thoughts, and keep us physically and mentally secure. As we pray for our Veterans, and members that have been challenged with obstacles, that they may overcome by the power of their faith. That You make them whole, nothing broken or missing in their lives; complete restoration from anything that has a stronghold in their lives, that is not of you...

Protect our Veterans who are serving in harm's way, those that are in VA hospitals, that they have a speedy recovery. You said that you will keep those in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you. Make provisions for their family.

These things I ask, in your Holy Name... Amen!

For God and Country

Send me your prayer and card request:
Valerie Brown-Debro
Department Auxiliary Chaplain
404-201-5138 (c)
Valerie.Debro@yahoo.com

From: Cindy Kokernak
National Membership Vice-Chairman

LET ME START BY SAYING THAT I AM AMAZED AND THANKFUL FOR ALL THE FEMALE VETERANS YOU HAVE RECRUITED THIS YEAR! AS OF THE JUNE 24TH REPORT, WE HAVE RECRUITED 712 NEW FEMALE VETERAN MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY! THIS IS ONE BIG STEP TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL GOAL OF A MILLION MEMBERS AND MUCH NEEDED HELP IN REVERSING OUR MEMBERSHIP SLIDE. WE'RE DEFINITELY HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION! THANK YOU!

Now the second phase of recruiting begins...retaining all the new members that have been signed up this year. I am confident that there is overwhelming potential for these new female veteran members to help us enrich our existing programs. Please make sure that conversations with these new members go both ways.

It is critical that we explain to new members who we are, what we do and why we matter. *It is equally important that we listen to them.* Maybe they were in charge of a successful fundraising project in another organization or worked with a program giving assistance to family members of deployed troops. How will we know their strengths or where their passion may be unless we take the time to ask, let them share with us, and really listen to them?

Remember to ask them if they know other women who share their same passion. A new member can be a valuable recruiter in her own right. Bringing in her friends builds a level of comfort for her and also for the women she brings to our organization.

Let's encourage new members to make suggestions for projects. And, if a "Negative Nellie" tries to shut them down with that pessimistic phrase we dislike so much, "*Oh no...we've never done that before...*" then finish their sentence optimistically with, "You're absolutely right! We haven't tried that yet. This could be a lot of fun!"

I challenge you...dare to try something new!

“Dare to Be...When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully.
When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light.
When there is injustice, dare to be the first to condemn it.
When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway.
When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back.
When there seems to be no hope, dare to find some.
When you're feeling tired, dare to keep going.
When times are tough, dare to be tougher.
When love hurts you, dare to love again.
When someone is hurting, dare to help them heal.
When another is lost, dare to help them find the way.
When a friend falls, dare to be the first to extend a hand.
When you cross paths with another, dare to make them smile.
When you feel great, dare to help someone else feel great too.
When the day has ended, dare to feel as you've done your best.
Dare to be the best you can - At all times, Dare to be!”

— Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*

NEW *Juniors Corner*

Junior Activities!!!

Bring your juniors to Fall Conference. Remember they are part of our Legion Family. They will meet Saturday morning at the same time as the Auxiliary. Lunch will be provided.

From 6:00pm until No later than 8:30pm, there will be a Halloween Party for the girls. Girls can come dressed in costume. There will be prizes for the Best, the most frighten and the cutest costumes. Snacks will be provided.

Also, we will be working on the Junior President's Special Project. She wants to provide comfort items for the Homeless Veterans at the Stand-down. We need unopened travel size of shampoo, lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, regular size soap, washcloths and white socks. We will be collecting these items at the Fall Conference. Let's help make her project a success.

As co-chairmen, we are looking forward to working with the juniors. If you have any questions, you can reach us at Larisha Linaweaver at 706.421.0291 and Linda Shockley at 404.234.2102.

GROWING OUR FUTURE WITH OUR JUNIORS.

Emblem Usage

The American Legion Auxiliary emblem is a registered Trademark. It can be used for stationary without getting permission, but has to be used in good taste. If a Unit wants to use the emblem for shirts, hats, pins, ink pens or bags (etc), **IT MUST BE PRE-APPROVED** through the Department and National headquarters. The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarter requires this. There is more on this to come later.

**President's Theme:**

"Forget-me-nots..Our Mission...Our Purpose...Our Vision for Our Veterans."

Membership Theme:

"FORGET ME NOTS ARE BURSTING OPEN FOR MEMBERSHIPS"

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2015

Aug 28 - Sept 3, 2015	97 th National Convention Baltimore, MD
September 7, 2015	Labor Day (office closed)
September 11, 2015	Patriot Day
Oct 24-25, 2015	Fall Conference Duluth, GA Youth Champion Banquet



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